Creating Effective Assignment Prompts

Workshop Activity Sheet: Enhancing Writing Assignment Prompts with TiLT and AI

ACTIVITY 1: Evaluating and Revising Assignment Prompts Using AI

To review and/or revise your writing assignment prompt(s), AI can help to analyze and refine a current assignment prompt based on the instruction you feed it. In this case, we encourage the use of the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TiLT) framework, which emphasizes three key components:

Purpose: Why are students completing this assignment? How does it connect to their learning?

Task: What exactly are students expected to do?

Criteria for Success: How will students know they have done well?

Review: Pick one of the AI prompt templates below to work with. You can make revisions if you would like to, then paste in your assignment prompt as it is.

Prompt Option 1:

*You are an expert faculty developer. Please evaluate the following writing assignment prompt using the TiLT framework. Identify strengths and areas for improvement in its **Purpose, Task, and Criteria for Success**. Then, suggest a clearer and more student-friendly revision.*

Assignment Prompt: *[Insert your assignment prompt here]*

Prompt Option 2:

Revise the following assignment prompt to improve its clarity, engagement, and transparency using the TiLT framework. Ensure that the purpose is explicitly stated, the task is clearly outlined, and the criteria for success are well-defined.

Assignment Prompt: *[Insert your assignment prompt here]*

Refine: After receiving AI-generated feedback, modify your prompt further using follow-up questions such as:

- Can you make the purpose more engaging for students?
- How can I clarify the task to reduce ambiguity?
- What additional details would help students better understand success criteria?

ACTIVITY 2: Generating an Evaluation Rubric Using AI

A well-structured rubric helps students understand how their work will be assessed and aligns expectations between students and instructors. Use AI to generate or refine a rubric for your assignment.

Pick one of the AI prompt templates below to generate a evaluation rubric for your assignment. You can make revisions if you would like to, then paste in your assignment prompt as it is. Perhaps you can try the original assignment prompt, versus a AI revised version based on TiLT.

Prompt Option 1:

*You are an expert in assessment design. Please create a clear and detailed grading rubric for the following writing assignment. The rubric should align with the assignment's purpose and evaluate key elements such as **content, organization, clarity, analysis, and mechanics**. Use a four-level performance scale (e.g., Excellent, Proficient, Developing, Needs Improvement).*

Assignment Prompt: *[Insert your assignment prompt here]*

Prompt Option 2:

Analyze the following assignment prompt and generate a rubric that aligns with TiLT principles. Ensure the rubric makes evaluation criteria explicit and understandable for students. Include performance levels and descriptions.

Assignment Prompt: *[Insert your assignment prompt here]*

Refine: After receiving AI-generated rubrics, adjust them using follow-up prompts such as:

- Can you simplify the language to be more student-friendly?
- How can I better differentiate between performance levels?
- Can you add specific examples for each criterion?

FINAL STEPS:

- Compare your original assignment prompt and rubric with the revised versions.
- Discuss any insights gained and possible refinements you'd still like to make.
- Share takeaways with the group.